

Chicopee Register

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Fire Department says

'Thank You' for donations



From left Chicopee Fire Lt. Zachary Vozella, Chief Daniel Stamborski and Lt. Nicholas Brown express their gratitude to the dozens of local businesses that have provided the department with equipment and food during the pandemic.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

City rallies to support responders during pandemic

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

First responders have received a plethora of a thank yous and well wishes over the past three months. The roles have now reversed, as the Chi-

opee Fire Department directs its own gratitude towards the community it serves.

More than 50 local businesses and residents have combined to donate thousands of dollars' worth of personal protection equipment to the department amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Fire Chief Danel Stamborski thanked them for their generosity.

"We appreciate it im-

mensely. I can't even describe it. It touched all of us," said Stamborski. "Obviously, all of us, as first responders, were faced with something new that we had never gone through before. It was heartwarming to see people come in and donate these supplies after word got out that the first responders were lacking in this equipment."

In March, the department

was scrambling to accumulate an adequate supply of PPE. Today, there is enough on-hand to last for the foreseeable future.

Among the key contributors was the Home Depot on Memorial Drive, which offered five boxes of 3M respirators and more than 50 N95 masks. Mahan Slate Roofing delivered four boxes of N95 masks, eight

See THANK YOU page 9

COVID-19

Mayor admires city's response to pandemic

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

It's been more than 12 weeks since the first state shutdowns were set in motion to safeguard against the spread of COVID-19. In the time that has since passed, Chicopee has been challenged in ways that it never before had been.

Several residents have lost their lives and others continue to battle the virus, but community members have leaned on each other to pull through. Mayor John Vieau said he has been moved by the city's resolve and its overwhelmingly positive response to the pandemic.

"The pandemic has

brought us together, to find new ways to talk to each other, overcome difficulties and make the best of the situation. I am proud of the citizens of Chicopee and our employees for their creativity, caring, sharing, and understanding," said Vieau.

When the virus challenged the city, individuals of all backgrounds have answered the call. Vieau listed several of the most inspiring actions he witnessed, including the IT and School Department's ability to program more than 1,200 Chromebooks that



Chicopee Mayor
John Vieau

were needed to facilitate virtual learning in the city.

Vieau complimented the Council on Aging for its campaign of "wellness calls," local businesses for adhering to guidelines, first responders for showing up to work each day and postal workers

for delivering the mail. He also acknowledged the sense of creativity that has enabled residents to carry on.

"We learned to Zoom, use Google Meet, and let loose on TikTok. We cared for each other through social distance,

and I think that car parades will become a new norm. We also know we can address any challenging situations like the potential loss of graduation, postponing fireworks, and egg hunts with dignity and understanding," said Vieau.

Many personal sacrifices have been made since COVID-19 arrived in March. From lost vacations to postponed weddings, Vieau noted that he is now sure that all residents are "willing to sacrifice for the primary good; protecting and saving lives."

Transparency within City Hall has been a crucial ingredient of an effective response.

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LIBRARY

Summer Reading Program to go virtual this year

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Girls track team had outstanding four-year talents

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SAFETY

DA, State Police see increase in car thefts

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Imagination a critical component of summer reading program

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

The strength of one's imagination can unlock true freedom. The Chicopee Public Library will apply that theme to this year's summer reading program, aptly titled "Imagine Your Story."

Libraries all across the state have adopted the slogan for their summer reading initiatives. Youth Services Coordinator Erin Daly described the appeal of the catchphrase that many children will soon become familiar.

"It's a great theme because imagination is good no matter what is going on," she said. "Right now, while we're stuck indoors and at home, we can use our imaginations to go wherever and help us get through this until we can go hang out with our friends again and go on adventures in real life."

The Chicopee Summer Reading Program will exist entirely online and function through programs such as Zoom and YouTube. Participants will have remote access to a variety of activities and exercises.

Library staff will lead virtual presentations on cooking, conduct experiments and read aloud fairy tales and classic children's stories.

Daly and her colleagues were excited in anticipation of this year's Summer Reading Program well before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived. The crisis



FILE PHOTO

While the building remains closed to the public, the Chicopee Public Library encourages folks to participate in this year's Summer Reading Program, "Imagine Your Story," using remote platforms like Zoom and YouTube.

forced the program to go virtual and library staff members responded well to the change of plans.

"I think everybody was thrown for a loop, but we've had to figure out how to keep going. We can't hang out in person right now because it's not safe to do that, and usually summer reading is a huge party with lots of crowds. We'll have to hang

out on the internet," said Daly.

A website has been designed to track reading logs and participants will be able to download the materials necessary to complete the exercises. The summer slate will include video performances and content from special online guests.

Daly expressed disappointment that in-person interactions aren't possible

but fully understands that the decision has been made to best ensure the safety of all. A large portion of this summer's plans were shelved but could reappear next year.

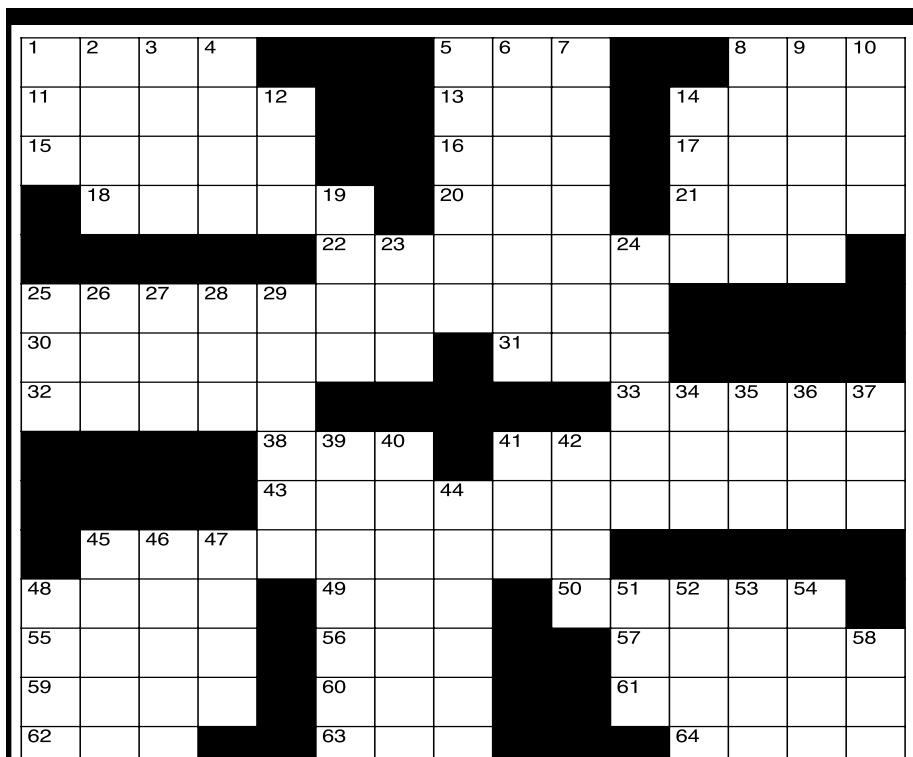
"We had ideas to do a lot of cool things in person and performers we planned to book who were going to come and do big shows. That will have to wait; we'll do it when we can," said Daly. "It will be safe for us all to hang out together again eventually. I guess that means that we might have some really good ideas for summer reading next year; it'll be the ultimate summer reading [program]."

Daly took the opportunity to thank the parents of children all throughout the city. She acknowledged that this is a difficult time and voiced her gratitude for their commitment, which will continue to be necessary for children participating in the summer reading program.

"Parents are under a huge amount of stress; there's so much going on," said Daly. "They've become teachers, they've become playdates; they've become everything. I imagine that they are feeling a bit overwhelmed. It's gotta be really hard. We're hoping to inspire some fun stuff and keep everything really easy so that we're not causing more stress."

More information on this year's summer reading program will be forthcoming; Daly can be reached at edaly@cwmars.org.

Find us online: chicopeeregister.turley.com



CLUES ACROSS

- Swiss shoe company
- Caesar, comedian
- and flow
- Horsefly
- Egyptian pharaoh
- African nation
- Tony-winning actress Daisy
- Initial public offering
- Long-winding ridge
- Guinea peoples
- Fellow
- About aviation
- Able to make amends
- Easy to perceive
- Cut off
- Northeast Thai language
- Earthy pigment
- Water nymphs
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Those who deal
- Apply a new fabric
- Confusions

CLUES DOWN

- Indicates a certain time (abbr.)
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Central American lizard
- Muslim military commanders
- To __ his own
- Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
- Heavy cavalry sword
- Partner to pain
- A type of savings account
- In a way, felt pain
- Wide-beamed sailing dinghy
- Consume
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Body part
- Midway between south and southeast
- Cheek
- One who takes to the seas
- Select jury
- Parts of the small intestine
- Painter's accessory
- Honk
- Ballpoint pen
- Large, dark antelope
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Consumes
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Body part
- Midway between south and southeast
- Cheek
- Rugged mountain range
- Commercials
- NY football player
- A form of be
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Kindnesses
- Natural electrical phenomenons
- Upper surface of the mouth
- Your
- Diana __, singer
- Exercise system
- Not written in any key or mode
- Chinese principle underlying the universe
- Renowned jazz trumpeter
- Freedom from difficulty
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Revolutionaries
- Criticize

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 6

Banks, credit unions unveil mask compliance procedures

BOSTON — Since the beginning of the novel coronavirus pandemic, banks and credit unions quickly responded to serve consumers and small businesses while protecting the health of their employees, members and customers. As they worked to "flatten the curve," most branches converted to drive-up window options, while all retail transactions were encouraged and available through mobile/online banking, ATMs, and debit/credit and electronic payments. Appointments with branch staff were also available.

As the commonwealth and other states have initiated a phased approach to re-starting the economy, many will be challenged by a new set of rules and procedures when it comes time for them to do their banking at their neighborhood bank or credit union.

"As we enter Phase I of the commonwealth's re-opening plan, most of the industry will continue to provide service as it has during the last eight weeks, with a gradual opening of some branches," said Donald P. Gill, Massachusetts Bankers Association board chair. "The health of consumers and our staff is paramount, with facemask protection a key measure of banking safety."

While the face mask may serve as a protective health barrier, other steps are being taken to ensure the face behind the mask is properly identified for regulatory and security reasons before any transactions are conducted.

In addition to face masks, branch lobbies will experience various changes. Much like grocery store policies, there may be set hours for seniors to do their banking. Furniture may be rearranged to facilitate office flow and maintain social distancing. Plexiglass shields may be installed to protect tellers and consumers. A "greeter" at branch entrances may direct

lobby traffic, distribute masks, enforce social distancing guidelines and possibly take the temperature of the person wishing to enter the branch. And, rather than a single universal teller line, each teller may have a separate queue. They, too, will practice social distancing.

"While members may experience a different way of doing business with their local and trusted credit union, these changes are being done for the safety of both members and credit union employees," said Ronald McLean, president and CEO of the Cooperative Credit Union Association, Inc. "What will never change, however, is the commitment of Massachusetts credit unions to work tirelessly to support their members, their families, and businesses, helping them continue to build a better and more secure financial future."

"If nothing else, the last few months have proven the banking industry's resiliency in serving consumers seamlessly under extraordinary circumstances," stated Daniel J. Forte, president and CEO of the MBA. "While challenges remain, the banking community stands ready to meet consumer and small business needs."

All throughout the "shelter in place" mandate, both banks and credit unions across the state continued to operate as essential businesses, meeting and at times exceeding consumer needs. Forte reported approximately 100,000 Massachusetts small businesses received \$15 billion in loans as part of the Paycheck Protection Program; nearly 19 years' worth of SBA loans in 18 business days. As for Massachusetts Credit Unions, McLean noted that they have done payment extensions on consumer, mortgage and business loan balances of more than \$1.5 billion, while also waiving hundreds of thousands of fees, saving consumers millions.

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Markey, Neal push for rail funding during video conference

By Peter Spotts
Staff Writer

Expanded rail service for the region may find new support in Sen. Edward Markey's, D-Massachusetts, proposed "Brain Train" Act to authorize \$5 billion dollars annually for five years to invest in high-performance intercity passenger rail service.

Markey said during a video press conference on Friday, May 29, rail is needed to bring attention to the historically unconnected, or un-reconnected, communities. He didn't rule out the possibility of adding stops in Chester and Palmer when asked which towns will get rail stops between Boston and Pittsfield.

"We have a plan that would potentially go Boston, Framingham, Worcester, Palmer and Springfield out to Pittsfield. That would be how it would be envisioned right now," Markey said. "I wouldn't rule out other stops if they were deemed to be necessary."

Westfield was also mentioned as being in the discussion. Ben Heckscher, cofounder of local advocate Trains in the Valley, noted that the more stops that are added, reduces train travel time. He also pointed out that Western Mass. is better connected to Connecticut and New York than Boston.

Markey strongly feels that rail investment is one of the ways to combat climate change and boost economic recovery following COVID-19, and connecting the eastern and western parts of the state, and beyond.

"Despite clear economic, environmental, and safety benefits, Congress has insufficiently invested in expanding passenger rail," Markey said. "Developing and restoring passenger rail service, especially in communities that have been under connected, is exactly the kind of recovery program that can help repair the economic damage caused by the coronavirus while correcting long-standing inequities."

"Now is the time to take the pressure off of our highway system," added U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts. "We can do this with renewable energy in mind. We can make this very green friendly and also remind people, as we go forward with rail, the rest of the world already does this, and they've embraced it enthusiastically. It's a very efficient way to travel."

Application for the competitive grant funding created by the "Brain Train" Act would be evaluated based on the levels of estimated ridership, increased on-time performance, reduced trip time, or additional rail service frequency; the anticipated provision of passenger rail service in regions that are historically and persistently unconnected or under-connected; and the anticipated favorable impact on air or traffic congestion and safety.

It also directs DOT to give greater preference to projects that encourage direct connection between multiple modes of transportation — train and transit stations, bus terminals, subway stations, ferry ports, and more; improve conventional intercity passenger, freight or commuter rail operations; provide environmental benefits, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and public health, provide positive economic and employment impacts, and provide enhanced transportation options for persons with disabilities.

Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tye spoke at the conference as well, noting her city has often felt disconnected from the rest of the state, and is excited about new opportunities expanded rail could have for the city.

"The ability to get on a train and quickly get to Springfield, Worcester or Boston is something many people in our city have dreamed about for a very long time," Tye said.

Markey confirmed this would not be an allocation of existing funds, but brand new funds, a new infrastructure bill and new passenger rail projects in Western Massachusetts and across the country. Details such as the construction of new tracks and where stops would be are left to the individual projects to plan. Markey said any form of hearings on the legislation will be a part of the process, which is dependent on when the next coronavirus relief package is finalized by Congress.

"Once we begin the discussion on an infrastructure bill, then this will be part of that discussion," he said.

Markey was asked during the press conference if the allocation of \$25 billion for public rail transportation during a time when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are recommending people avoid mass transit systems is a wise course of action. Markey said he feels it's important to prepare for a time when society has overcome COVID-19.

"We have to plan for a future that allows for people to get back on trains again. We have to have a vision of what that will look like," he said. "While we're putting a massive amount of effort into finding a vaccine...we need a long term vision for passenger rail and we have to simultaneously assume that people will be going back on passenger rail because we will find a public health solution to the coronavirus."

Governor Baker releases Phase II reopening plan

BOSTON — Gov. Charlie Baker issued an Executive Order that provides a detailed list of businesses and activities that fall into Phases II, III, and IV of the commonwealth's Re-Opening Plan. The Order also permits all Phase II enterprises, including retail, to begin preparations to safely resume operation in advance of the start of the second phase.

In addition to the retail sector, the Executive Order details further requirements for the safe resumption of amateur youth and adult sports and outdoor dining.

Effective immediately, the Executive Order permits Phase II businesses to reopen their physical workplaces to workers only to conduct necessary preparations prior to the start of Phase II. Preparations include but are not limited to completing a COVID-19 Control Plan, implementing sector-specific protocols, and complying with Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards.

Retail stores will transition from curbside pickup and delivery-only to browsing and in-store transactions with restrictions at the start of Phase II.

Social distancing guidance requires each retail store to monitor customer entries and exits and limit occupancy at all times to either eight persons (including store staff) per 1,000 square feet of accessible, indoor space, or 40 percent of the retail store's maximum permitted occupancy, whichever is greater.

Grocery stores and retail stores with pharmacy services must provide at least one hour of dedicated time for adults 60 years of age and older, while all stores are encouraged to offer exclusive hours or other accommodations for high-risk populations.

Operators of enclosed shopping malls and other indoor, multi-tenant retail spaces must monitor customer and worker entries and exits to common areas and limit occupancy of common areas at all times to 40 percent of maximum permitted occupancy levels. Mall amenities like seating in food courts, children's play areas and arcades must remain closed, while mall food vendors and restaurants may only provide take-out or delivery service.

Once Phase II begins, these standards will apply to all retail businesses except for Farmers' Markets, which shall continue to be governed by Department of Pub-

lic Health guidance.

Retailers that have been defined as providing Essential Services pursuant to COVID-19 Order No. 13 will be required to comply with these sector-specific safety protocols within one week of the date that Retailers are authorized to open pursuant to the Governor's Phase II Reopening Order.

Sports

The Order also allows organizers of amateur sports programs for youths and adults to open their premises to staff only to make preparations in advance of the start of Phase II. During Phase II, organized sports will be required to limit traditional contact sports to no-contact drills and practices; games, scrimmages and tournaments are prohibited; separating participants into groups of 10 or fewer; and restricting the use of indoor facilities to supervised sports programs and camps for youths under the age of 18.

As of press time, further sector-specific guidance for youth and adult amateur sports programs was to be issued in the coming days.

Subject to the implementation of COVID-19 health and safety rules adopted by respective leagues, the Order permits professional sports organizations to reopen their premises to employees and other workers for practices and training; however, professional sports organizations are not allowed to engage in inter-team games and sporting facilities will remain closed to the public.

The Order also permits restaurants to provide outdoor dining service with restrictions upon the start of Phase II; providing continued positive progression of public health data, indoor dining may be authorized by a subsequent order during Phase II. In order to provide improved opportunities for outdoor table service, the order also provides flexibility to a local licensing authority to grant approval for a change for any type of license that permits the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. In both outdoor and indoor dining cases, restaurants will be required to comply with sector-specific COVID-19 workplace safety rules for restaurants.

For more information, visit mass.gov.

Counting Turtles

The winner of April's Counting Turtles competition has been announced. Congratulations **Steve Curylo**, of Chicopee! Please email Editor Tyler S. Witkop at tyler@tulley.com for details on how to claim

your prize.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest. We hope you had fun finding new ways to connect with your hometown newspaper.



BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM 2020—2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2020—2021 school year:

Grade K	8	Grade 7	10
Grade 1	6	Grade 8	7
Grade 4	2	Grade 9	10
Grade 6	6	Grade 10	10

The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships.

The deadline for submitting a complete application packet which includes all required documents is 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020.

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on June 29, 2020, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second will be conducted on August 13, 2020.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at www.belchertownschools.org or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

The Belchertown School District does not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, disability or proficiency in the English language in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Are Social Security and Medicare out of money?

By Russell Gloor
Guest Columnist

Dear Rusty: I have been hearing reports that Social Security and Medicare will run out of money by 2035 and will only pay approximately 75 percent of benefits. First, is that true about Social Security? And second, will they reduce benefits to people who are already on it or just the new people signing up? Signed: Worried about the Future

Dear Worried: The financial difficulties facing both Social Security and Medicare are well known by those of us who work with these programs every day, and Congress is equally and acutely aware of the issues. But Social Security and Medicare are two entirely separate programs, which require two entirely separate answers.

Let's discuss Social Security first. The SS Trust Fund now has about \$2.9 trillion in assets. These are reserves accumulated from past revenues that exceeded the cost of providing past benefits to recipients of Social Security. That seems like a lot of money but starting this year (2020) Social Security will need to use some of those reserves to pay full benefits. That's because benefits paid out to recipients in 2020 will be more than the money coming in (this was expected even before the pandemic exacerbated the problem). And that trend will continue, and worsen, as we go forward in time. Without Congressional action, the SS Trust Fund reserves will be exhausted in 2035. And unless Congress acts before then to increase SS revenue and/or reduce SS expenses, when the Trust Fund is dry, an across-the-board cut in benefits will affect everyone. That's because with the Trust Fund empty, Social Security can only pay out as much money as it receives in revenue and it's currently estimated that, in 2035, that will result in a cut of 21 percent for everyone. Sadly, the actions needed to correct Social Security's financial issues are well known; what's missing is bipartisan cooperation in Congress to implement the changes needed.

There is no doubt that Social Security needs reform to be able to sustain full benefits for future generations and, hopefully, Congress will step forward soon to make those changes. Historically, any changes made to Social Security do not affect those who are already collecting benefits (it would be political suicide to do that), but rather will apply to future beneficiaries (much more palatable politically). Of course, that cannot be guaranteed but, if history is our guide, changes will eventually be made that shore up Social Security's finances, and those changes will affect only those who are not yet eligible to collect benefits.

As for Medicare, part of the FICA payroll taxes paid by every American worker includes an amount (1.45 percent) to pay for Medicare Part A (hospitalization) coverage for Medicare beneficiaries. Any excess collected goes into an "HI Trust Fund" reserved for paying Medicare Part A expenses. According to latest reports the HI Trust Fund is projected to run dry in about 2026, at which point, theoretically, only hospital expenses equal to revenue could be paid.

Medicare Part B coverage (for doctors and other outpatient services) is paid for from two sources – one source is the monthly premiums that are paid by every Part B beneficiary, and the other source is the government's General Treasury (which picks up the difference between what is collected in Part B premiums and what is needed to pay healthcare expenses). Similarly, it's expected that the government will shore up Medicare Part A as needed when the time comes (which it has in the past). So, while Medicare is clearly under a lot of financial stress from

GUEST COLUMN

Joan E. B. Coombs



Geese, goslings and ganders

Mother Goose Nursery rhymes originated in long ago times and in the faraway lands of England, Scotland and the USA. However, every spring and fall, a reminder of those Mother Goose moments appears in a waterfowl sky-writing. Their flock's V-formation, along with vivid visuals and honking as they fly together, and then land near a marsh, a lake, and on well-mowed, grassy fields.

Once upon a month ago, several Canadian geese families flew, landed and began hovering over their securely nestled nests on the edges of a nearby thriving marsh. And, so with the springtime arrival of a modern-day version of Mr. Gander and Mum Goose and the gosling nursery time grew from incubations to fuzz-frosted fledglings in about four weeks.

With a clear view of her surroundings, our resident Mum Goose found a safe site from predators. She designed a nest from plants and moss with im-peck-able skill. Soft down and feathers lined her shoreline nursery where she laid about eight, off-white eggs. Over the next 30-days, she incubated her eggs nestling and daily turning them, Mr. Gander stood on

stretched-neck-watch duty guarding her and her nested eggs closely.

And, yes, as a Geese and Gosling nursery story should tell, it's a cozy, snuggle-and-settle-in family story. In it we read that Mr. Gander and Mum Goose are life-long mates. Using their parenting skills together, they lead and teach the fledglings how to walk, eat, and "peep-talk" while feeding and grooming the grounds for fresh grass, and easy-to-eat foods.

Quite naturally through the following months, the goslings learn to swim and fly under their parent's watchful eye. And, by the time a return flight to a warmer climate happens in late fall, they are all able to join in a return V-formation flight to their original homeland.

Yet, not only can we learn lessons from the land-living lifestyle of Mr. Gander, Mum Goose and their traditional family values, but even their annual spring and fall flight patterns show us all timely valuable, team-spirit lessons.

Briefly, all evidence shows that when Geese migrate they follow a leader in a V-pattern. Each consecutive goose flies to the right or left of the leader, flapping their wings on sustaining, upward

currents. They trust their leader. And, yet within the power of the flock, a rotation pattern can take place. Also, when one goose becomes unable to fly, several will depart and fly down to earth to be with it. When well again, they can rejoin a flock or make their own flight pattern. Trust is an important part of the flock's direction and success. And, if you've watched geese in their annual spring and fall, V-flight patterns, you've no doubt heard the honking joy of their journeys together.

Perhaps the older Ganders and Mum Geese are following the young ones in their first long-distance flight and cheering them on? Maybe a few young ones fly to earth to accompany, help and be with Grandpa Gander and Grand Mum Goose when their wings get tired? I can imagine that happening as one of the grandest nursery stories on God's good earth along with adventures and observations of some of nature's most beautiful creatures.

And, that's how the Geese, the goslings, (and not forgetting the gander "of examining things closely") lived happily in ever-after land.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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sonal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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See MEDICARE page 9

OPINION

Keep a constant supply of bush beans coming

Bush beans are a good example of a vegetable that works well as a succession crop. What that means is that they can be sown multiple times throughout the summer. Why? Because unlike most other vegetables, beans produce less than eight weeks from sowing, are not finicky about heat and as long as you have full sun and average garden soil, they can be grown with relative ease. Consider making additional sowings of this versatile vegetable now before you get busy with the harvest. That way you can enjoy a continuous supply all summer long.

You might still refer to snap or bush beans as "string beans" even though the tough strings that connected the two halves of the pod were bred out of the snap bean beginning in 1884 with Calvin N. Keeney's introduction of the stringless refugee wax bean. Today's modern stringless beans are a result of those early breeding efforts.

All types of beans require warm soil in which to germinate; 60 degrees at least, hence the few plants from that early sowing. My sowing on Memorial Day is just

starting to poke through the soil. Did you know that white-seeded varieties are especially picky about soil temperatures? Black and tan seeds regulate moisture intake more effectively, and therefore are less likely to rot in cool, wet soils. If you want to gamble with an early sowing, sow these instead. Usually by May 20, the ground is warm enough to sow all types of beans. Succession plantings can be made every 10 days through July 30. After that it is unlikely that plants will produce a viable crop before frost hits.

Rather than sowing bean seeds in rows, I make good use of garden space by planting them in a four-foot wide block. Anything wider than four feet would make it difficult to reach in among the plants to harvest. If soil has been turned over or rototilled first it is easy to simply place the bean seeds on top of the soil four inches apart and push them into the ground with your index finger, up to the first knuckle. Pat

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

the surface of the soil with your palm to firm, and water well. Germination will take place in a week to 10 days.

It is good practice not to work among the plants after a rainstorm or in the early morning when dew is present. Touching wet foliage can encourage diseases and spread them from plant to plant. When the foliage is dry you will want to be on the look out for the Mexican bean beetle.

A bit larger than ladybugs, and all brown, these pests and their fuzzy yellow larvae can decimate a stand of bean plants. Vigilance is the key. If squashing bugs isn't for you, dropping them into soapy water will also do them in. Try planting marigolds nearby to deter them. I have also found through experience that subsequent sowings are best sited away from one another. It will take the beetles a longer time to find the new plants than if they are planted side by side.

Harvest beans when they are still relatively thin. Depending on the vari-

ety, pods can average five to seven inches long at maturity. When inner seeds start to swell and fatten up the bean they aren't nearly as tasty. As mentioned, bumper crops are possible, and sometimes it may be difficult to keep up with the harvest. One variety known especially for its holding power is Jade. Beans from this variety retain a deep green color and sport thin pods. I have also enjoyed growing French beans "Haricot Verts" because they are very long and thin, never tough.

Fresh beans are easy to freeze. Blanch in boiling water for three minutes then plunge into ice water until cooled. Air-dry thoroughly, pack in plastic bags, and place in the freezer.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Baystate seeking plasma donations from recovered COVID-19 patients

SPRINGFIELD – Actor Tom Hanks has done it. So has his wife Rita Wilson. Several NBA players, too, and now singer Andrea Bocelli.

They have all donated convalescent plasma to help in the fight against COVID-19. Now, community members may be able to donate their convalescent plasma locally at Baystate Medical Center.

"Baystate is pleased to announce the initiation of a new aspect to its Blood Donor Center operations joining with hospitals nationwide in seeking plasma donations from recovered COVID-19 patients. This new program initiative, termed 'Hemotherapy Heroes,' recognizes the important role these patient donors play in treatment efforts to combat the pandemic. Their plasma may help save the life of someone fighting desperately to recover from this deadly novel coronavirus infection" said Chester Andrzejewski, Ph.D., M.D., medical director of system blood banking and transfusion medicine services a Baystate Health.

More than 130 patient donors, who have recovered from their COVID-19 viral illness, have already reached out to

Baystate's Blood Donor Center to donate their convalescent plasma.

Convalescent plasma is the liquid part of blood that is collected from patients who have recovered from the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 patients develop antibodies in the blood against the virus. Antibodies are proteins that might help fight the infection. Convalescent plasma is being investigated for the treatment of COVID-19 because there is no approved treatment for the disease, and there is information that suggests it might help some patients recover from COVID-19.

Those who have had COVID-19 and are fully recovered, may be able to help save the lives of other COVID-19 patients by donating plasma. This plasma now contains COVID-19 antibodies, which helped one's immune system to defeat the virus and may be able to help others who are now infected with the disease.

To qualify, donors must be able to meet routine blood donation eligibility requirements; must have a prior COVID-19 diagnosis documented by a laboratory

test; must be fully recovered for at least 28 days; and must be willing to authorize Baystate Health access to their medical record for the purpose of determining eligibility for COVID-19 convalescent plasma donation.

Those who meet the requirements and want to donate their plasma can fill out a plasma donation data form at <https://www.baystatehealth.org/services/blood-donor/covid19-plasma> to begin the evaluation process.

Those who haven't had COVID-19 and still want to help can consider donating blood.

A single whole blood donation at Baystate Medical Center can save up to two lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges to the U.S. blood supply. Donor centers have experienced a dramatic reduction in donations due to the implementation of social distancing and the cancellation of blood drives. Blood is needed every day to provide lifesaving treatments to patients with a variety of medical and surgical conditions.

During the pandemic crisis, Baystate Health has relocated its blood do-

nation operations to 361 Whitney Ave. in Holyoke.

The Blood Donor Center is open daily: Monday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are given priority and can be made by calling 413-794-4600. However, platelet donations at Whitney Avenue are scheduled by appointment only.

Those donating whole blood must be in good health, be at least 17 years of age, and weigh at least 110 pounds.

Per the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, whole blood donors should refrain from blood donations for 14 days if they have had any symptoms of COVID-19 or have had a positive diagnostic test (nasal swab test) for COVID-19.

For more information, contact the Baystate Health Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600 with questions or to make an appointment, or visit the Blood Donor Program on the Baystate Health website at <https://www.baystatehealth.org/services/blood-donor>.

Blood donors needed to keep supply strong amid COVID-19 outbreak

In times of need, people come together to support one another. The American Red Cross is asking for healthy individuals to step up to help patients experiencing health crises by donating blood or platelets.

As COVID-19 continues to affect everyday life, people may not be thinking about blood donation. But blood and platelets are needed daily to help patients battling disease and facing the unexpected. Donating blood is an easy way to care for each other and ensure hospitals have the blood products patients rely on.

As a thank-you for helping ensure a stable blood supply, all who come to give blood or platelets May 15-31 will receive a special Red Cross "We're all in this together" T-shirt, by mail, while supplies last. Donors must have a valid email address on file

to claim their T-shirt.

How to help

Healthy individuals who are feeling well are asked to make an appointment to donate this month by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 800-733-2767 or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Amazon Echo device. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Blood donation opportunities are available daily Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive in Springfield, now through May 31.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest stan-

dards of safety and infection control and additional precautions – including social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to safeguard donors, volunteers and employees.

The Red Cross is also looking for blood drive hosts to help ensure a stable blood supply. Learn more and sign up to sponsor a drive by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17-years-of-age, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18-years-of-age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day

of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

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IN THE CITY

Chicopee has history of weathering disasters

Historical Society president offers perspective on past events

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

It's tough to argue against the notion Mother Nature is the most powerful entity known to man. Throughout its history, Chicopee has endured the full force of her wrath on numerous occasions.

Flooding has impacted the city in a way that few other natural forces have. Chester Kobierski, president of the Chicopee Historical Society, described the Flood of 1936, which left parts of Chicopee under 18 feet of water following 14 consecutive days of rain.

"It happened during the spring when the temperature was unseasonably warm. Over the course of two weeks, there was more than 20-inches of rain. In addition to that, you had the snow melt. Up north, there had been four feet of snow in the mountains. Between the rain and warm temperatures, all this started turning into water and heading down [the Connecticut River]," said Kobierski.

Ice traveling down river broke loose, creating an ice jam in Northampton. The worst flash flood in the region's history occurred not long thereafter.

"Finally, on March 16, 1936, everything broke loose, and parts of Wilimansett ended up anywhere from 10 to 18 feet underwater. That was in a flood plain at the time, and there was no series of dykes at all," said Kobierski.

Most of the flooding unfolded west of City Hall as the Connecticut



A photograph taken from Granby Road shows the incredible flooding that overtook Chicopee during the Hurricane of 1938. Dwight Mills appears in the background.

PHOTOS COURTESY CHICOPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

River proved much more destructive than the Chicopee River. A number of prominent businesses located along the Connecticut River were badly hit; Kobierski listed damages that were cited in material preserved by the historical society.

The Moore Drop Forging Co. was hit with \$50,000 of damages, amounting to roughly \$922,262 today with inflation. The Industrial Buildings Corp., which operated Dwight Mills in Chicopee Center, faced \$40,000 of damage, which equates to about \$737,000 in 2020.

The Chicopee Provision Co. off of Meadow Street also experienced \$40,000 of damages, and the Spalding Co. was set back \$80,000, approximately \$1,475,000 today.

Following the 1936 flooding, the municipalities of Chicopee and Northampton lobbied for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to create more secure flood protection.

The government agreed to do so, but work was not completed prior to the Great New England Hurricane of 1938, a Category 5 storm.

"At that time, you didn't really have any kind of forecasting. The only way that they knew a hurricane was coming was if a ship out at sea radioed that they were encountering it," said Kobierski. "Suddenly, on Sept. 22, 1938, New England got hit with 100-mile-per-hour winds without any kind of warning. Again, you had parts of Chicopee under 10 feet of water or more."

Fortunately, no one in the city was killed as a result of the storm, but flooding was consequential. The southern part of Chicopee was without water for approximately a week after a critical water line stemming from the Coolley Brook Reservoir was disrupted near Chicopee Falls.

The power of the current in the Connecticut

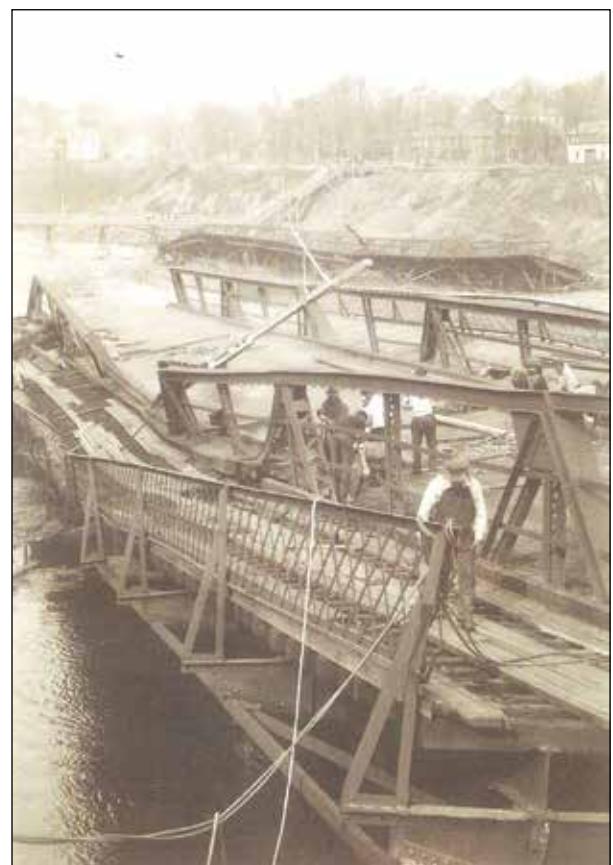
River was so strong that it ripped out the Davitt Bridge. Kobierski listed the damages that the city accrued.

"For citywide industry, there was at least \$404,000 of damage. That's in 1938 dollars and not adjusted for inflation. Property damage to citizens' homes was about \$5.7 million. Again, that's without inflation," he said.

To offer perspective, \$5.7 million in 1938 is equal to more than \$104,000,000 today. Kobierski recalled another storm, Hurricane Diane, which he witnessed firsthand as a youth.

"That started on Aug. 17, 1955. This wasn't really a wind type of event like the '38 hurricane where you had 100 miles per hour winds. It was mainly water. You had something like 13 inches of rain that fell on the city of the course of two days," he said.

Alongside his uncle, Kobierski traveled to the Davitt Bridge, which had



Pictured are the remnants of Chicopee Falls Bridge, which was damaged heavily during the Hurricane of 1938. Chicopee Historical Society President Chet Kobierski noted that "the bridge was made of steel and divided into three travel lanes," the left for trolleys, center for automobiles and right for pedestrians.

been restored following the 1938 storm. Upon reaching the bridge, Kobierski witnessed a sight that he vividly remembers nearly 65 years later.

"We were standing at the top of the hill looking down, and you could actually see waves of water coming over the tops of the railings. It looked like the beach when the tide's coming in. The water was just coming over the top. It was incredible," he said.

Helicopters traveling from the Westover Air Reserve Base saved 22 residents who were trapped by the flooding. Parts of McKinstry Avenue and Front Street near the Chicopee Electric Light Department were washed out,

as were a bath house and beach that had been established within Szot Park.

For Chicopee history buffs, Kobierski shared another noteworthy story about a revered general for whom a city school would eventually be named after.

"Gen. John Stefanik, a Chicopee resident, was in charge of Barnes [Air] National Guard Base in Westfield. During the 1955 hurricane he was going over to take care of the efforts going on, but his car ended up in a sinkhole. The road had collapsed. He lost the car, but he managed to get out okay," said Kobierski.

More information regarding the Chicopee Historical Society can be found on its Facebook page.

Find us online: chicopeeregister.turley.com

90 Meat would like to recognize the Class of 2020 for all its accomplishments and resilience. Throughout the next few weeks we will be honoring local graduates who have worked so hard to reach their goals. This week the 90 Meat Family would like to recognize two of its own for all they have done to get to this point. Paola Nicole Vega Torres Graduating from Roger L. Putnam Voc. Tech. & Fabian Morales Chicopee High School CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020 AND BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE!

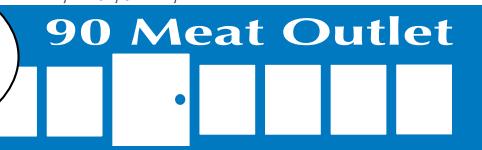
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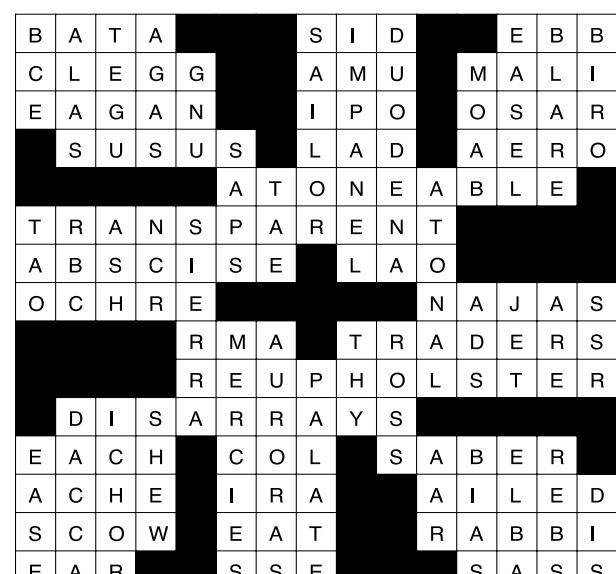
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Sports

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CHICOPEE HIGH SCHOOL

Girls track team had outstanding four-year talents

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee High School girls track team was set for another great season. Coach Adam Tanguay celebrated his team's seniors with a slideshow.

Katie Karparis was a long distance runner. She did events like the one and two miles. She spent four years with the team.

Taylor Choquette was a four-year member of the team also. She threw the javelin and discuss and was a qualifier for Western Mass. in the discus. She also attempted the pole vault.

Kassandra Lozada was another thrower and qualified for Western Mass. in the shot put. She placed fourth in last year's PVIAC meet and was 12th in the Central/West meet. She was an all-league choice in the Valley Wheel League.

Jasmine Leyda had a brilliant career as a member of the Pacers.

She was all over the field,

participating in relays, sprints, hurdles, and the long jump. She was a qualifier for Western Mass. in the 100 meter, the 110 meter hurdles, long jump, and the 4x100 meter relay. She was also an all-league choice last year.

Denisha Moreno was a distance runner, but also participated in a number of relays events as well. She would place seventh in the one-mile at the 2019 PVIAC meet.

Ashley Chimelis participated in the pole vault, was a sprinter in the 800 meter and participated in the relays. Pole vault was her event and she placed second in Western Mass. as a junior last season, looking to win it all this season. She also has the distinction of achieving maximum success in the classroom. She is the valedictorian of the Class of 2020 at Chicopee High School.

Ashley Chimelis runs a race late last year. She was a sprinter and pole vaulter for Chicopee girls track for the past three years.

FILE PHOTO



SUMMER SOCCER

PVSSL awaits guidance, will delay season's start

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – After three months of waiting, the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League could be one of the first leagues to have actual games starting early next month.

Diana Kolodziey, runs the PVSSL along with her husband Chris, said earlier this week they are planning to hold a regular season and playoffs, with a slightly modified schedule.

"Based on the governor's re-opening plan," she said. "We are hoping to start the season sometime in early July."

That start will not be without questions, issues, and a lot of guidance from the state level.

Under Gov. Charlie Baker's re-open plan, the four main phases are: Start, Cautious, Vigilant, and the New Normal.

The New Normal, until a vaccine is discovered, will still involve restrictions for people, and could have a whole new

See PVSSL page 8

BASEBALL

Adult baseball still hopeful for some type of 2020 season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

EASTHAMPTON – Baseball leagues have dwindled a bit, limiting choices for collegiate stars, adult standouts from the Tri-County League, and high school players and post-graduates who lost out on American Legion seasons.

While there are no known alternative options for the younger players, there is an emerging look for adult players 25 and above.

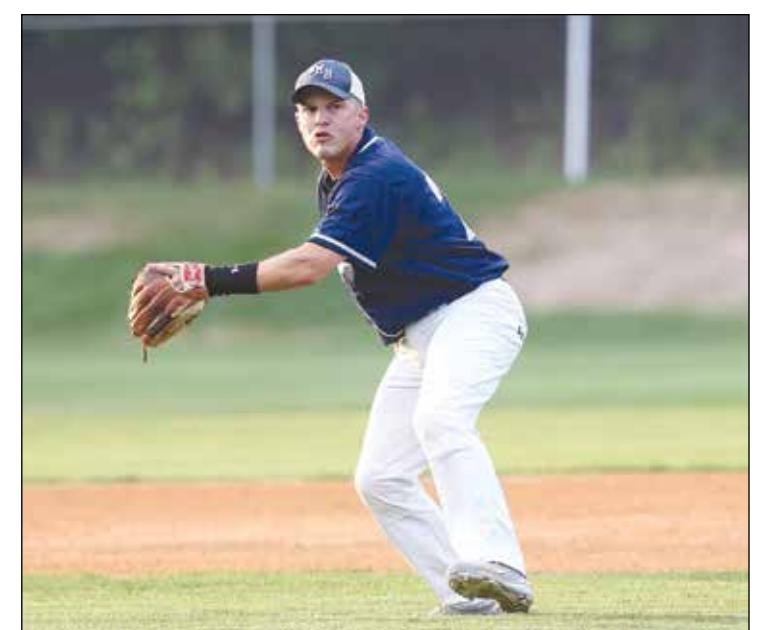
At least four leagues have not called it quits on a 2020 season, all with the flexibility to hold their seasons later and even play into the fall.

However, even with governor's re-open plan, it is not fully clear when teams in the leagues will be able to begin play, though many are hopeful it will be sometime this month.

Phase 2, known as "Cautious," is supposed to allow teams to begin practicing. Phase 2 is supposed to start on Monday, June 8. However, each phase has



With several leagues shutting down play for the season, adults summer leagues may be the only alternative for some players.



Four adult leagues in Western Mass. are still hoping to play baseball in 2020.

had sub-phases with different activities and businesses opening up each week since the re-open plan began on Monday, May 18.

Also, different communities will take different approaches to

opening recreational facilities, making the availability of fields also limited.

Adult players, some of whom are Tri-County American or National players, have begun

looking at the various leagues for open spots to play, or even to possibly enter teams.

The Western Mass. Wood Bat League is currently an eight-team league that has been in ex-

istence for many years. It allows players who are age 25 and up and could be a potential landing spot for several Tri-County play-

See BASEBALL page 8

2020 Bay State Summer Games events cancelled through July

REGION – All Bay State Games events originally scheduled for May 30 through July 26 will be cancelled in consideration for the health and well-being of all athletes, officials, coaches, medical staff, and volunteers. The challenges and uncertainty that COVID-19 has presented prevent the organization from appropriately planning, organizing, and producing events in 30 different sports this year.

This summer, Bay State Games was set to celebrate its 39th annual Summer Games. Due to multiple venue cancellations, the inability to conduct team sport tryouts in June, decisions by sport governing bodies to suspend competitions, medical committee concerns, as well as other factors, the Summer Games will not be able to proceed as scheduled.

"We are committed to the health and well-being of our constituents. It is of the

utmost importance to keep everyone safe during these unprecedented times," says Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. "While this was a very difficult decision, we believe it is appropriate given the unprecedented impact this pandemic has had on everyone, as well as our ability to produce events this year."

Bay State Games remains hopeful that some events may proceed in the fall if and when it is safe to do so. Sport pages on the Bay State Games website will be updated with information as it becomes available. All athletes who have registered for the 2020 Summer Games will be refunded for their registration fee. If the sport you wish to compete in can be held in the fall of 2020, it will require a new registration. For more information, please visit www.baystategames.org. Please direct all questions and inquiries to info@baystategames.org.

Valley Wheel Baseball aiming for summer baseball season

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings

are lifted. The league is hoping for late June, early July start to the season, dependent on the terms of the governor's re-open plan. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.

Quabbin League hoping for July start

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going forward. Sign-ups should resume soon.

The league is hopefully to begin play sometime in early-to-mid-July. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. A modified schedule is being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

PVSSL from page 7

meaning for sports. But according to the Baker plan, the second phase would allow for practices to begin at various fields throughout the region.

Games should be able to begin in the third phase, vigilant. However, the guidance and regulations for businesses and activities have yet to be made public by the Baker administration.

Kolodziey they are waiting for that guidance from the governor's office so it can inform teams of how they must conduct themselves.

Restrictions could include social distancing when not directly involved in the game, possible temperature checks, wearing masks when not in the field of play, and disallowing fans from games.

Modifications of these rules could also be possible. In the case of soccer, fans could possibly be allowed if they are on the opposite end of the field and fans are properly distanced from one another, like in the case of people going to the beach, which are now open.

The other major issue the PVSSL will have to watch closely is each town and how the individual communities and

cities lift restrictions on field use, allowing games, and gatherings of various sizes.

Currently, certain professional sports are only allowing players to practice in smaller groups.

Finally, Kolodziey said the early July start to the season is dependent on there being no setbacks in the governor's re-opening plan where restrictions would have to be re-enacted. As of press time, Massachusetts has not had any setbacks on the re-open plan and numbers have continued to trend in a positive direction.

Under the current timeline, Phase 3 should start on June 29.

With the currently timeline, if the league does play, it would and transition right into the fall pre-season practices. However, it also remains to be seen if those will start on time and what they will look like.

For up-to-date information on the state of the PVSSL, go to www.pvsummersoccerleague.com.

The PVSSL has two divisions each of high school boys soccer, and high school girls soccer. There are also mens and womens adult leagues. All are expected to play if there are no further delays or restrictions that will prevent the season from happening.

Senior athletes being featured

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring's season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn't.

BASEBALL from page 7

ers with the higher level of competition and the use of wooden bats.

The other three leagues looking into restarts are "over-30" leagues. All three have existed for a while, though two of the leagues have changed their eligibility for players this year.

The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League has changed to allow players 28 and up, though pitchers may not pitch in the league until they are 30. The Quabbin Valley league has also adopted the same rule.

Both leagues would have normally started Sunday games the last week

of April. Both league are eyeing starts sometime in early July based on how the governor's guidance for Phase 3 dictates a return to actual competition.

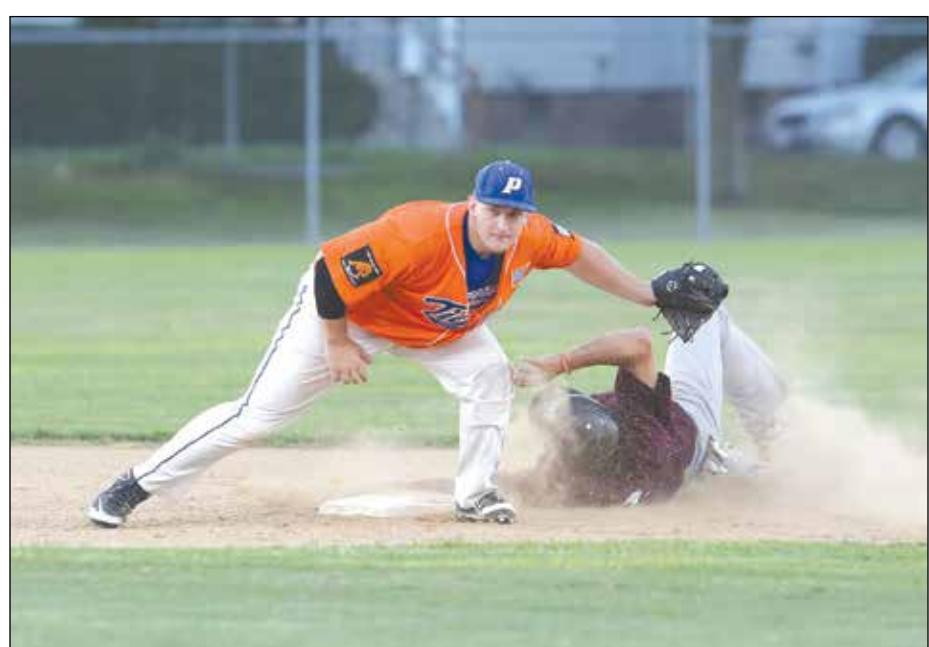
The Pioneer Valley Over-30 Baseball League is also still on the table. The Pioneer Valley League is also a wooden bat league, but normally plays Saturdays and Tuesdays.

The Quabbin League held a meeting Sunday, and is hoping for the July start, and the league's president said it is depending on what fields would allow play and allow it soonest.

None of the leagues have decided how long of a season it would play or what type of modified schedule it would have.



FILE PHOTOS
Under the governor's re-open plan, baseball may be able to return in late June or early



Parameters and guidelines for baseball to resume at the local level have not been released by the state government.



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Elms College distributes CARES Act funds to 425 students

The College of Our Lady of the Elms recently distributed funds to 425 students under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Stability Act.

"We are pleased that we could ease the financial burden put on many of our students as they adapted to learning remotely during the pandemic," said Financial Aid Director Richard O'Connor, adding that qualifying expenses included moving off campus and investing in technology to do classwork from home. "These funds have also helped offset childcare costs and preventative measures in addition to the treatment of COVID-19," he said. Expenses such as food, housing, course materials, health care, childcare, technology and transportation, were considered as well.

Overall, the college received 496 applications from students for emergency funding. The average amount awarded to the 425 students was \$1,478.

Money spent on trips that the college had to cancel were also included in the funding requests that were granted. "We

had several students who were affected by cancelled mission trips and I am grateful that these students were able to get reimbursed," O'Connor said.

On March 27, Congress passed the CARES Act, which included specific guidelines for colleges and universities to distribute the funding. For example, half of each institution's total grant allotment was earmarked for students in need of emergency aid, with the other half going to the institution to defray costs and expenses resulting from COVID-19.

Following passage of the CARES Act, Elms College received nearly \$1.3 million. Half of the college's allotment, just over \$649,000, was reserved for eligible students in need of emergency aid and the other half was issued to the college to defray costs and expenses as a result of COVID-19.

To date, the college has awarded more than \$628,000 to students. The remainder of the allotment to students, approximately \$21,000, will fund students' future emergency needs.

MassMutual, WNEU help nonprofits, businesses through coalition

SPRINGFIELD — Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Western New England University School of Law's Center for Social Justice have joined the COVID Relief Coalition of law firms, nonprofits and government agencies to provide small business owners and nonprofit organizations with free legal support.

Through the Coalition, members of MassMutual's Law Department, assisted by WNE School of Law Small Business Clinic alumni and students, will provide

legal guidance to help small businesses and nonprofits understand the requirements to receive and, if eligible, access loans through the federal government's Payment Protection Plan as well as to help identify other potential sources of relief in Western Massachusetts.

Small businesses and nonprofits seeking free legal assistance about the PPP are encouraged to contact the COVID Relief Coalition at <https://www.covidreliefcoalition.com/en/Pro-Bono-Assistance>.

said he was impressed by the creativity displayed by all of the benefactors; he also complimented the resiliency of his staff.

"People take for granted police officers and firefighters saying, 'Hey, that's your job,' but we had a very low instance of people calling in sick to avoid their responsibilities," said Stamborski. "Very few people did; men and women on my department were actually moving vacations not just because they couldn't go on vacation but because they wanted to come in and help out. It's a really good feeling."

Stamborski added that the National Emergency Medicine Association is also supplying the department with PPE. That said, equipment is a valuable commodity, and the department will certainly be open to receiving additional donations going forward.

For future generations of firefighters in the city of Chicopee, the department has shown what it means to serve. During trying times, Chicopee firefighters are standing tall and continue to perform to the best of their capabilities.

"The men and women here just came in and did their job day in and day out. They were nervous; we all were. It was an unknown enemy, and we didn't know how it would play out, but everyone came to work. I'm very grateful for that. I think it sets an extremely good example for [youths] who are considering getting into law enforcement or emergency services," said Stamborski, also thanking Mayor John Viegas for the support City Hall has lent the department.

Special thanks went out to Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi and the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, which was responsible for donating masks. Stamborski

For more information on how to donate, one can contact the department at 413-594-1600.

THANK YOU from page 1

3M respirators and several boxes of eye protection as well.

The Ben Dusza Roofing Roofing company donated 40 N95 masks and the BJ's on Memorial Dr. contributed 30 cases of water. Ondrick National Earth was additionally responsible for a donation of 500 N95 masks, equally split between the police and fire departments.

Pioneer Packaging donated 500 face shields, and Ocean State Job Lot gave out 209 face shields, as did United Plastics. Ted Ondrick, a Chicopee resident, gave out 1,000 face shields; 600 to the fire department and 400 to the police department.

The results of the generosity have surely been felt. Stamborski recalled the transformation that occurred in regards to the department's stock of accessible PPE.

"At the very beginning, it was extremely difficult for all of us to get a hold of the proper, recommended equipment, and because of donations we were able to get a better level of protection for our frontline ambulance personnel. When other people may have been scrounging for just regular surgical masks, we had really good protection out there," he said.

National food enterprises such as Domino's, Starbucks, Panera Bread and Dunkin' Donuts donated items to the department. Local businesses and entities including Goodworks Coffee, Milano's Pizza, Lids Live Well, Grace Group Realty and St. Stanislaus Girl Scout troop contributed food and tea.

Special thanks went out to Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi and the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, which was responsible for donating masks. Stamborski

City owed for early voting expenses

BOSTON — In a recent letter to lawmakers, State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump called on the state to reimburse communities \$727,169.37 to cover the costs of mandated early voting expenses related to the 2020 presidential primary election. This was the first time that Massachusetts offered early voting in the presidential primary.

Bump's Division of Local Mandates surveyed city and town clerks to provide an accounting of mandated costs related to that service. In addition to asking the legislature to reimburse municipalities for these expenses, she urged the body to create a permanent process to fund this service.

"Early voting has already proven to be a valuable addition to our democratic processes; establishing a formal procedure to fund the expenses incurred by our municipalities will make it that much stronger," Bump wrote.

According to Bump's data, Chicopee

should be reimbursed in the amount of \$5,063.62 in mandated, early voting-related expenses.

In 2017, Bump's office determined that parts of the early voting law are unfunded mandates on cities and towns. The mandate determination cited requirements that municipalities establish an early voting polling location that has sufficient staffing and privacy for voters as the factors driving the conclusion. As a result, since 2016, cities and towns have been reimbursed over \$2 million to cover these mandated expenses. Thus far, the legislature has not allocated funds to cover mandated municipal costs associated with early voting in the 2020 presidential primary election.

Since 1984, election-related mandate determinations and certifications from Bump's office have resulted in more than \$32 million in state allocations to cover mandated municipal costs

DA: Lock car doors after break-in uptick

SPRINGFIELD — Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni and the Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to his office are reporting an increase in motor vehicle thefts and break-ins over the past few months.

According to Gulluni's office, several recent incidents are connected to groups of individuals who travel into the area during the overnight hours, park in a neighborhood and walk around on foot looking for unlocked vehicles. The offenders check for unlocked cars and steal any valuables located inside. If the thieves find that keys or key fobs were left behind in the car, they may steal the car as well.

Many of the vehicles stolen in the past few months are being recovered in the Hartford, Connecticut area. The office reports similar break-ins have been reported in East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, West Springfield and Ludlow.

Gulluni's office reminds residents that the vast majority of vehicle thefts and break-ins can be prevented by taking common-sense steps to make vehicles a less appealing target. They include locking the vehicle when unattended and overnight; never leave keys or fobs in the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni and the Massachusetts State Police encourage folks to keep their car doors locked after a recent uptick in local vehicle break-ins. Thefts have been reported in East Longmeadow and Ludlow, and some vehicles have been recovered in the Hartford, Conn. area.

vehicle; and remove any valuables from the vehicle.

Those who see suspicious activity or suspicious people checking parked cars in their neighborhood are encouraged to call the local police department and report it. Every tip may be helpful to investigators.

GSCVB: visitors ready to visit region

SPRINGFIELD — A recent report by the Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau found folks are getting ready to return to Western Massachusetts.

According to the survey of previous overnight guests, which was conducted in May by the Prism Advisory Group, nearly half of the potential travelers are looking to scenic drives, beaches, natural resources, as well as the area's shopping, dining and night life. Roughly 33 percent of respondents intend to take a day trip this summer, with 40 percent intending overnight accommodations.

Nearly half of the respondents said their intent to visit the area has not changed as a result of COVID-19.

"We are encouraged by the results of this survey," Mary Kay Wydra, GSCVB

MEDICARE from page 4

the ever-increasing cost of health care, it's highly doubtful that the program is in any danger of going away. More probably, Congress will look to cut the program's expense structure, which would affect medical service providers more than individuals.

Russell Gloor is a certified Social Security adviser through the Association of Mature American Citizens. This column is intended for information purposes only

and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

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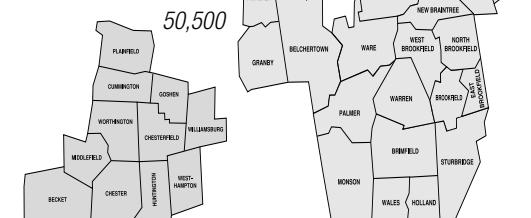
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Feeding Hills, MA 01001

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6/04, 6/11, 6/18/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD120P0743EA Estate of:

**Jean Hayden York
Also Known As:
Jean H. York, Jean E. York**

Date of Death:

March 12, 2020

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Patricia J. Yi** of Chicopee, MA a Will has been admitted to informal

probate.

Patricia J. Yi of Chicopee, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surely on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of

Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 6/04/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103

Docket No. HD19D1388DR

Alaine R. Brazier vs.

Kenneth E. Brazier

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for IRRETRIEVABLE BREAKDOWN.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining

Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

John F Moriarty, Jr., Esq.

480 Hampden St.

Holyoke, MA 01040

your answer, if any, on or before **08/19/2020**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 26, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

6/04/2020

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MAYOR from page 1

Daily meetings have been held for the past three months to move Chicopee forward.

For businesses looking to reopen, Vieau urges patience. The city is relying on the direction of the state and is open to communicating with any local business owners seeking clarifications.

Municipal decisions are occurring only after enough data is accrued to properly strategize. Vieau noted that a number of departments are preparing "outdoor dining solutions for our restaurants."

While the weather is warm, the sun is shining and summer will soon be upon us, Vieau emphasized that residents must adhere to social distancing and safety protocols such as mask-wearing. He explained why

safety must still be observed even on the hottest of summer days.

"During the summer weather days, if we do not continue to social distance, wash our hands, wear masks, stay at home if you feel ill, cough in your elbow, and disinfect surfaces, we will run the risk of overwhelming our health care system. That would result in repeating our steps from the beginning like closing down businesses and activities. No one wants that; no one wants to go backwards," said Vieau.

Vieau is less than five months into his first term as mayor and agrees that "trial by fire" is an appropriate way to describe his introduction to the position. Not all has been what Vieau expected, and he is OK with that.

"When I ran for office I focused on solid waste management, devel-

opment of the downtown, providing opportunities for our citizens, and increasing police presence in all our villages for the betterment of our community. Public safety was always my concern, but I did not think I would be thrust headfirst into battling a pandemic," said Vieau.

"In life, we can plan, but things can take a turn and you must adapt using your skills to make decisions and move the city forward," he continued. "Many residents had plans for weddings, birthdays, graduations, celebrations, and travel. They didn't just abandon their plans but they found alternatives and adjusted accordingly. I am proud to be the Mayor of such a resilient city and I will lead by example and find alternatives, adjust to new issues, and make Chicopee a better place."

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

As essential workers, our team members are on the front lines every day, helping families when they need it most. To support our community, we're finding new ways to serve you safely, including offering:

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- Electronic signature for documents
- Livestreaming memorial services

To the families keeping safe at home, to those that have to go out to work, and for everyone doing all they can during this uncertain time, we thank you. We want you to know that we, too, are doing all we can to keep our community safe and healthy.

No matter what you need, we are here to help - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - today and always. If you have any questions, call us at 413-283-9061.



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Baker signs bill expanding access to unemployment benefits statewide

BOSTON – A bill providing additional unemployment insurance relief to individuals, nonprofits and employers championed by state Sen. Eric Lesser and Sen. Patricia Jehlen was signed into law May 27 by Gov. Charlie Baker.

The bill, “An act providing additional support to those affected by the novel coronavirus through the unemployment insurance system,” builds on legislation already enacted waiving the one-week waiting period to receive benefits.

“It is welcome news that this legislation, passed with bipartisan support, has been quickly signed into law,” Lesser, Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, said. “Our communities are facing layoffs and potential long-term consequences during this health and economic crisis. This is a vital action taken to protect the wellbeing of our economy while pro-

viding urgent relief for over one million families and hundreds of small businesses.”

Components of the bill include protection for employers, extending the unemployment benefit period, lifting the cap on dependency allotment, and giving a grace period for nonprofits to self-insure for unemployment claims. The bill prevents layoffs related to the coronavirus from negatively impacting an employer’s future UI contributions; ensures the 30-week benefit period is triggered by a significant uptick in weekly claims; and eliminates the 50 percent cap for the dependency allotment, effective for 18 months after the end of the COVID-19 emergency and enhanced federal benefits. Additionally, nonprofits will have a 120-day grace period to make unemployment contributions, as many self-insure for unemployment claims, paying the cost of those benefits at the next billing period.

Theatre Guild of Hampden to hold digital auditions for ‘Hello Dolly’ production

HAMPDEN – With restrictions on gatherings and physical distancing measures still in place to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus, the Theatre Guild of Hampden will conduct digital auditions for its fall production of the musical “Hello Dolly.”

Those interested in a part in the show are asked to send a singing clip to Director

Mark Giza at mgizas@charter.net by June 9.

The show is tentatively scheduled to open Friday, Nov. 6 at the Red Barn at Fountain Park, 883 Tinkham Road in Wilbraham, and features musical direction by Tom Slowik and choreography by Dina DelBuono.

For more information, call Giza at 543-4203 or 413-204-5333.

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